

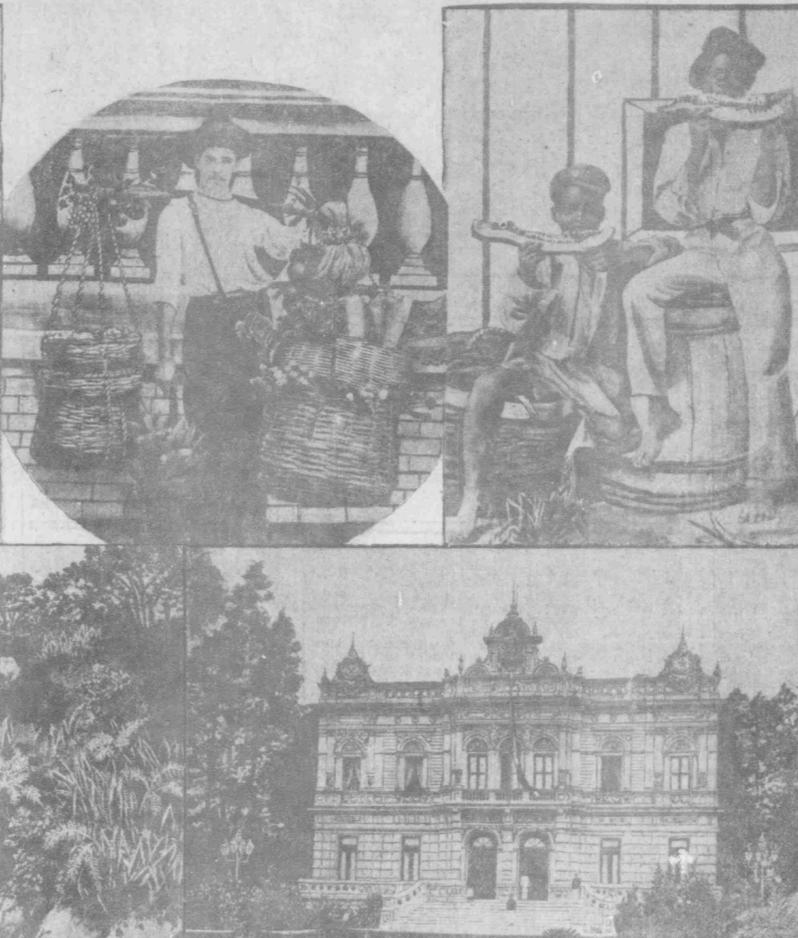
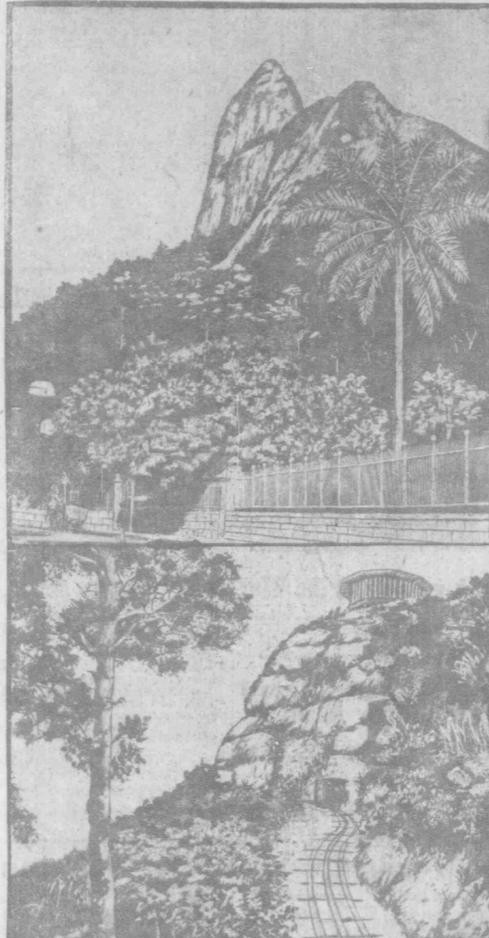
Kaiser's Colonies in Brazil No Merit to United States.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

SCENE IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

A PORTUGUESE PEDLER.

FAVORITE PASTIME OF BRAZILIAN BOYS.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 5. GREAT deal has been said of late about German immigration to Brazil, and the increase of German influence in South America. Some of our vigilant statesmen and writers have referred to the matter as a menace to American interests in the South. The statistics warrant no apprehension on this score. Last year there were only 245 immigrants from Germany to Rio and there are not as many Germans in this entire country as there are in the city of Milwaukee. The German element is located principally in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catharina, the two most southern states of Brazil.

These people are anything but sympathizers with the Fatherland; neither are they in touch with the Brazilian government. They speak the language and follow the customs of Germany, but are Brazilian citizens. The government is especially solicitous for their welfare, and they make no effort to hide their indifference to all outside influences. They claim independence, and are nominally their own bosses. Being agriculturists they live off the soil, and many of them never handle money. The Brazilian boys who play in their dealers with them or they have a rumpus on hand. If they are not treated right, the Germans are never slow in manifesting a rebellious spirit.

One of these German farmers was asked to whom his people sold their products. He replied that they sold some to Europe but exported the most of them "up to Brazil." This was an odd way for a citizen of a state to speak about his country, but it served to show how his people regard the situation.

Climate Destroys Energy. Thus it will be seen that these German colonists, being cut off from the old country, yet remaining apart in the new one, are not as energetic as they are represented to be. They are neither fish nor fowl. As a rule they belong to the lower classes and the stock is not improving. The third and fourth generations are about as illiterate as the natives. A traveler through their country employed one of the young men as a guide. There was some reference to the Fatherland, and it developed that this grown young man did not know that Germany was across the ocean. He thought it was somewhere in Brazil.

The German immigrants who remain in the centers, instead of following the pursuit of agriculture, soon lose their thrifty habits. The secretaries who quickly take away their energy, the men in particular, seem to lose their ambition. The washer-woman at the American legation in Petropolis is a German, and she takes in washing to support a big strapping husband, and a horde of cotton-headed youngsters. She has been doing this for six or seven years. The husband has a trade but the wages paid in Brazil for his particular kind of labor are not satisfactory. He works for a living, but he does not work for more than that, so he lets his wife support the family on about forty cents a day. She seems cheerful enough at her big job. When asked why her husband did not do something to help, she replied: "Oh, he does, sir. He writes a beautiful hand, and he makes out my wash bills for me."

An Inside Story. German colonies seem to be failures everywhere, and the ones in Brazil are no departures from the rule. There is an inside story about the origin of the German empire on Brazil. While the Kaiser was cruising in Northern Europe, he happened into a harbor where the private yacht of a rich New York publisher was at anchor. The proprietor of the American paper went to call upon the emperor, but his card was sent back to him with a note that he was away with scant ceremony. He retaliated by publishing what purported to be an expose of Germany's plan of conquest in Brazil. The story was taken up by other papers and it spread far and wide.

The whole thing was a mistake. It seems the emperor is surrounded by a lot of secretaries who think their salaries depend upon heading off every one who desires to see his majesty. He did not hear of the publisher's card until weeks afterward when the absurd article appeared about him. The fact of the matter was that he would have been pleased to receive the American if the blundering secretaries had not sent him away. It is useless to say that the Kaiser remarked a few times in his forestal way, and that hereafter those secretaries will not be so officious.

As a chain of German banks are talked of for the interior region, but there is not enough business in sight to warrant any extensive service of this kind. The Germans go into many schemes that do not pan out. The American capitalist is not satisfied with the Brazilian government, which not only demanded control of the service, but went so far as to stipulate that the sailors from these vessels should be transferred to the Brazilian army-of-war at the discretion of the government officials. The Germans did not relish the idea of supplying men for the navy, and there was a balk in which all interests participated.

The Portuguese element runs in Brazil. The colonists from Portugal stamped their customs on a people five times greater in number than those of the mother country. History offers no other instance of where the members of a ruling house took up their residence in a colony, and transferred the seat of government to the same. As compared with a Spaniard, a Portuguese has more Jewish traits. He is clever at a bargain, and is a natural-born retailer; he is more reasonable and less proud than the Don; he is less lip-dripping with his hands, and more capable of planning; he makes a good lawyer or doctor, but although he plans well, he executes poorly.

This trait shows up plainly in the present-day Brazilian. A number of years ago a wealthy citizen deeded a large tract of land to the state for the purpose of establishing a school of agriculture. The action of the gentleman when he made this public gift created a vast amount of comment, for the reason that it is not customary to do such things in South America. As the gift was made with the understanding that the work should be carried forward, extensive plans were made for conducting a great work in this particular line of instruction. But with all the fine planning, and the excellent start, the project has dragged.

An expert was put in charge and the farm well stocked with various breeds of animals, as well as modern machinery, but one day when the government was feeling rather poor, it was determined to have an auction and sell the stuff. The gift has been treated as a professional man the other way. He is not so much advanced in other directions it is not far from development to crudeness. Its people lack the American trait of adaptability. Instead of learning by their own experience, they do not correct their mistakes, but make them over again. Their symptoms are not the kind that make nations. The iron rails, the railroad, the steamship, the local industry are not fostered—all are hampered and preyed upon. The present day official is a man who has been a portion of coming generations; whose greed robs the future of its promise. The foundation is here, but the builder is not yet upon the ground. Other hands must build the edifice of state if it is to be.

A Builder Needed. Brazil is not far removed from the primeval in physical form, nor is it much advanced in other ways. In one direction it is not far from development to crudeness. Its people lack the American trait of adaptability. Instead of learning by their own experience, they do not correct their mistakes, but make them over again. Their symptoms are not the kind that make nations. The iron rails, the railroad, the steamship, the local industry are not fostered—all are hampered and preyed upon. The present day official is a man who has been a portion of coming generations; whose greed robs the future of its promise. The foundation is here, but the builder is not yet upon the ground. Other hands must build the edifice of state if it is to be.

He is deprived of any starch or greasy sauce by a thorough rinsing in boiling water. Granular cereals, such as hominy, puffed oats or farina may replace the rice in the puffs, but they must be thoroughly broken with a fork. No proportions are given for tea since it varies according to the kind used, and the ideas of those who drink it. A generous amount of sugar is one teaspoonful for each cup and one for the pot.

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